3. Copy - Roxbury, Aug. 31, 1877.

Dear friend Stacy: 122

After several weeks' absence at Providence, seeking in vain either curative or remedial treatment for my acute rheumatism, I am once more at home.

In reply to your kind and earnest letter, I can only reciprocate its spirit, giving you the assurance that my interest in public affairs, in the safety and welfare of the colored freemen of the South, in the blessed cause of temperance, and in other reformatory movements generally, is as vital as it ever was; and I long to be in a condition to testify and labor as of old. But this increasing infirmities forbid, and I am forced to be rather a looker-on than an actor in the struggles of the times. For the last seventeen months I have been

a constant sufferer from my rheumatic affection, which has been such as not only to cripple my locomotive powers, but also to cause so much prostration as to make any mental labor extremely difficult. It has been a serious burden to me to attempt to carry on my usual epistolary correspondence, to say nothing of writing for the press or attending public meetings. My time has been chiefly occupied in applying lotions, liniments, plasters, ointments, &c., &c., and trying the efficacy of magnetic and electric treatment, together with the use of Turkish, aromatic, and hot salt water baths, and testing certain internal prescriptions; but all to no purpose. My case, therefore, is not only an obstinate one, but may be life-long. For the present, at least, in regard to any State or National conflict, I must be considered virtually hors

de Contrat.

Du political meetings, as such, I have never allowed myself to participate; yet I watch all the political movements of the times with unabated vigilance, though I still absent myself from the ballot-box on account of conscientious scruples -

I certainly hope that the approaching Republican State Convention will nominate Thomas Talbot as the Republican candidate for Governor, and that he will be elected by a strong majority. It is idle to question his ability, his integrity, his patriotism, or his fitness for the office which, by his moral courage and noble consistency, he has already so signally honored. The Republican party cannot afford to discard him; the best interests of the Commonwealth will be consulted by his election. He deserves this token of the esteem and confidence of the voters

of the State all the more because he neither sells office nor prostitutes it to sordid ends —

As to public lecturing, platform speaking, &c.; the past must suffice. There are difficulties that compel me to silence. My testimonies must be given in some other way.

Admiring your zeal, congratulating you that you are still able to be actively in the field of philanthropy and reform, and thanking you for the hearty invitation extended to one in your letter which I am reluctantly obliged to decline, I remain,

Your old friend and co-worker,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

P.S. This letter is not for the public eye or ear, but the paragraph relating to Wm. Talbot you are at liberty to use as you may wish —

Geo. W. Lacy —